

**FIFTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT**

**MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE**

**SAN FRANCISCO
1911**

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Library and Chess Room

Mechanics' Institute Building

57 Post Street

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library is now established in its permanent quarters in the Mechanics' Institute Building. It now contains over 35,000 volumes and is being rapidly increased.

It is the purpose of the management to bring the Library to its former efficiency as soon as possible.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the titles of over 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Members may withdraw two books at a time and extra books on payment of 5 cents each.

Books (except new fiction) may be retained for two weeks and then renewed for two weeks longer.

New fiction may be kept one week and is not renewable.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Entrance Fee.....	\$ 1.00
Quarterly Dues (in advance).....	1.50
Life Membership.....	50.00

Library open, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

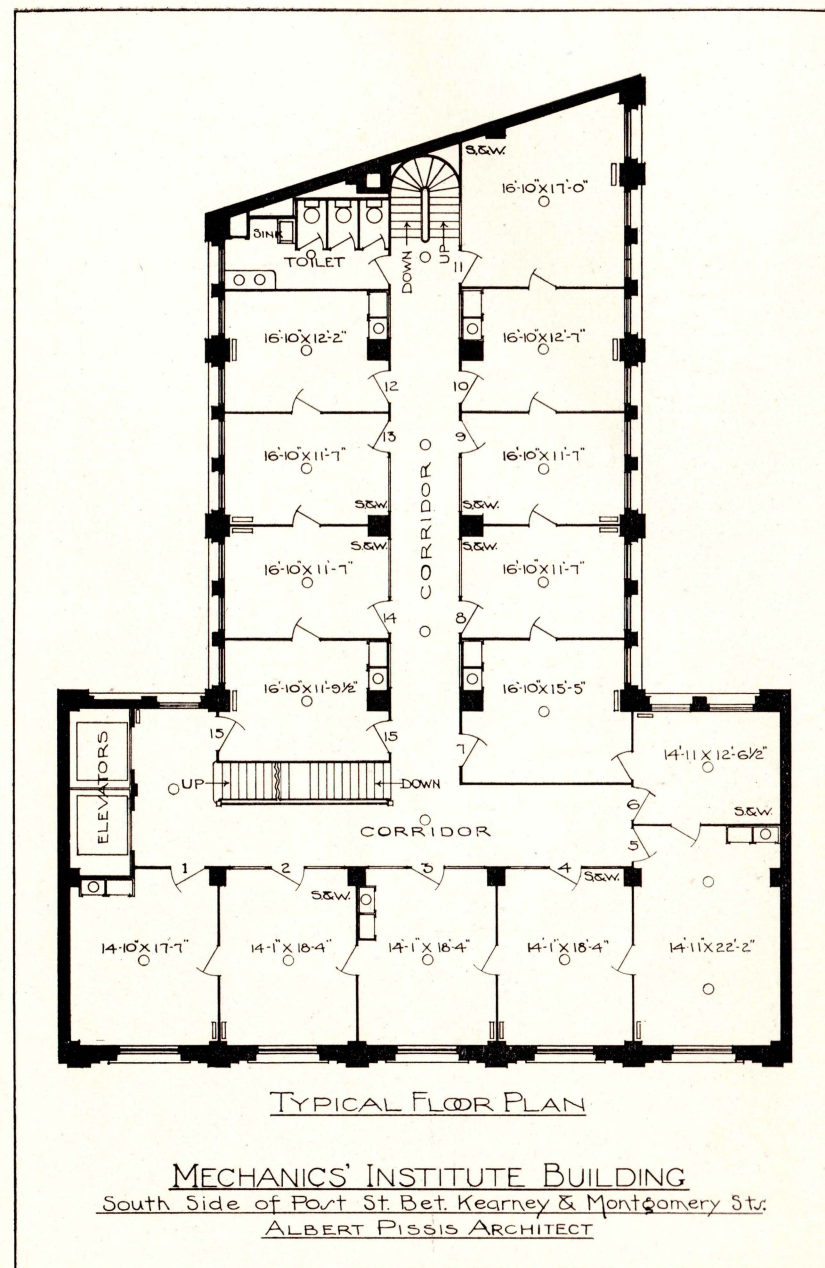
Sundays and Holidays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess Room open daily 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.



**Mechanics' Institute Building, Erected on Site of Former Building,
57 Post Street, Between Montgomery and Kearny Streets.**

The Mechanics' Mercantile Library occupies the second and third floors. The six upper floors are divided into offices and the ground floor into stores.



Floor plan of five upper stories, Mechanics' Institute Building.

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

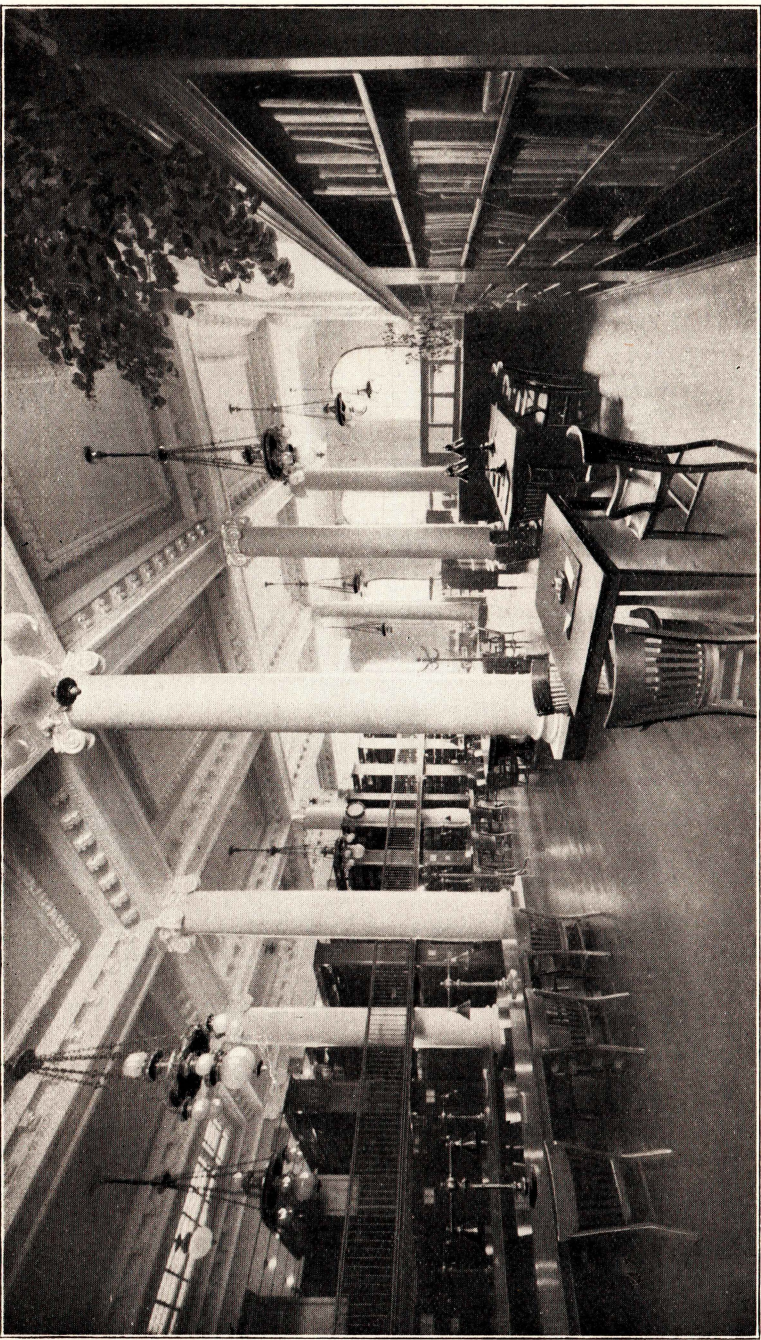
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1911

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1911



Mechanics'-Mercantile Library—Main Library Room, Second Floor Mechanics' Institute Building, looking north toward Post Street.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
OFFICERS**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

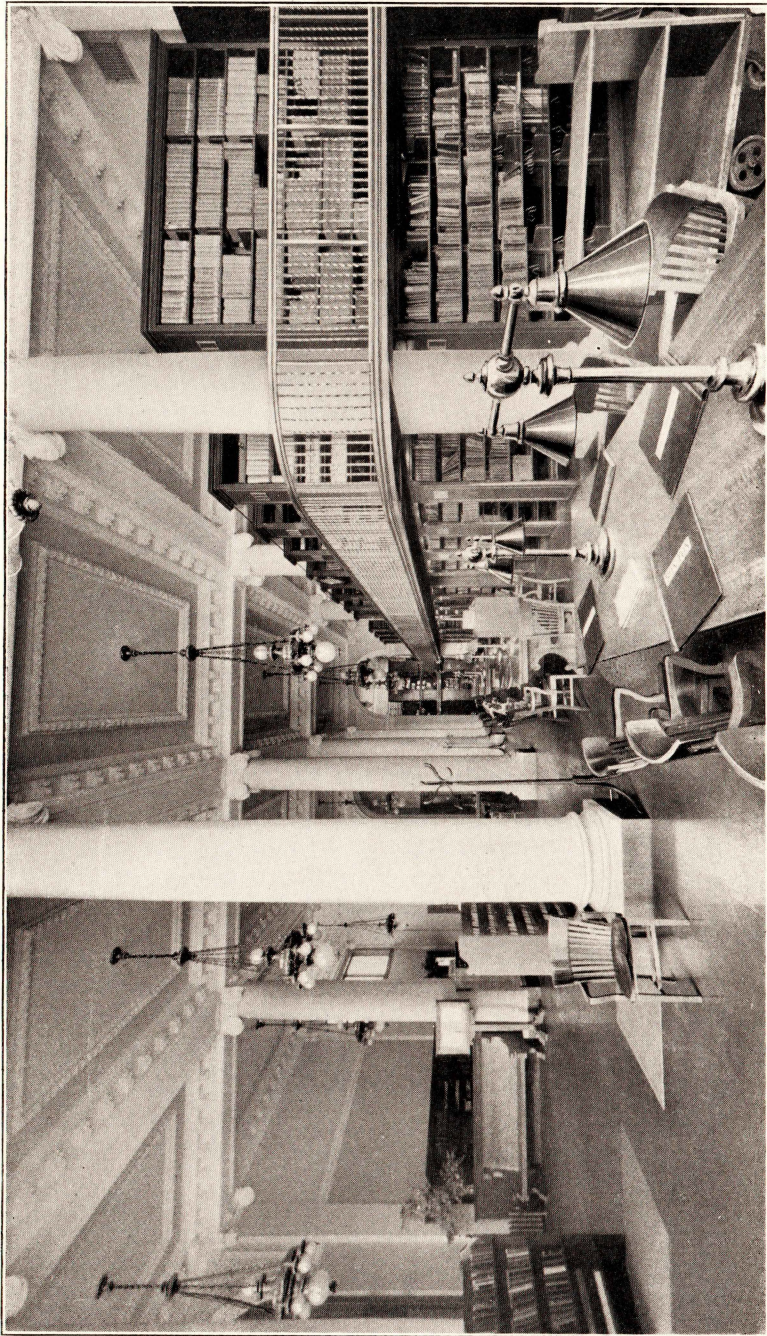
Year ending February 28, 1911.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG..... | President |
| LIVINGSTON JENKS..... | Vice-President |
| JAMES G. SPAULDING..... | Recording Secretary |
| JAMES H. LYONS..... | Corresponding Secretary |
| GEORGE BEANSTON | J. J. DOLAN |
| TIREY L. FORD | E. P. HEALD |
| BYRON MAUZY | ROBERT W. NEAL |
| DR. A. W. SCOTT | JAMES SPIERS |
| OTTO von GELDERN | LUTHER WAGONER |

- JOSEPH M. CUMMING.....Secretary

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

- F. B. GRAVES.....Librarian



Mechanics'-Mercantile Library—Main Library Room, Second Floor Mechanics' Institute Building, looking south from Post Street Front.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 9, 1911.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

Keeping in step with the progress of San Francisco, the Mechanics' Institute stands today rehabilitated and ready to take its part and share in the expected prosperity of the city. Your Trustees feel proud of the building which has been finished during the past year and are congratulating themselves upon their success in renting the stores and offices.

While the rent received for the offices has met our expectations we found a decided reduction in the anticipated rent of the stores. Believing, however, that it was the better policy to lease the stores at the best price obtainable than to let them lie idle, we have provided to the best of our ability for a gradual increase of the rental during the term of the leases. The amount paid out thus far for the construction of the building on Post street is \$294,331.69; the amount still to be paid is about \$22,000; making the total cost of the building, \$316,331.69, including the book-stacks, safes and some of the equipment.

This money has been borrowed from the German Savings Bank on mortgage and represents the entire indebtedness of the Institute.

We feel sure that sufficient stack room has been provided for a number of years to come and there is room for further expansion. The chess room has been equipped with the advice of the members of the chess club and presents, as we are told, completely furnished quarters for those interested in chess and checkers. The reference library has large airy quarters of its own, but like the rest of the library is suffering for the lack of more books. As far as possible all the furnishings of the library have been made in California, and in all instances local dealers have been given the preference. We have only words of praise for our architect, Mr. Albert Pissis. The only change contemplated is in the elevator service which is crowded beyond our expectations and will probably have to be increased.

According to the statement of our Secretary we have on hand the sum of \$32,659.61, which would be applied to the

reduction of our indebtedness were it not for the deficit now incurred annually in the maintenance and operation of the library. We do not feel justified in disposing of this balance until we see ourselves able to finance the affairs of the Institute properly. In other words, we are waiting to see what can be done with the Pavilion block.

At present the block is a burden to us, as we derive no income from it and pay taxes upon it amounting annually to \$4,200. We hope, however, that it is only a matter of short time until something will be done with it, and we will then be able to enlarge our library, increase our usefulness and still put aside a certain sum every year for the reduction of our indebtedness.

It will continue to be the earnest care of your Trustees to make the Pavilion block productive.

Our estimated annual receipts from the Post street building are \$31,700.00
Expenses—

For Interest.....	\$18,900.00	
Taxes	5,000.00	
Insurance	1,000.00	
General Expense	13,000.00	\$37,900.00

Showing a deficit of \$6,200, for which we have the use of the two floors for the library.

The estimate for the library for the coming year is as follows:

Receipts—		
For dues.....	\$13,000.00	
Sundries	1,500.00	\$14,500.00
Expenditures—		
Books, binding and periodicals.....	\$ 6,500.00	
Salaries	10,000.00	
Lectures	700.00	
Printing, stationery, general expenses	2,500.00	\$19,700.00

Producing a deficit of..... \$5,200.00

This makes a total deficit of about \$16,000 per annum which will be met, as before stated, as soon as we are able to make the Pavilion block productive. It is therefore not difficult to realize in which direction our energies must be directed.

It may be of interest to note that since the fire we have spent \$50,547.06 for books, binding and periodicals. Besides the Post street building and the Pavilion block, the Institute also owns one lot 120x300 on San Bruno avenue which is leased at \$30 per month, and seven lots each 25x75 in the Peoples' Homestead, Tract A.

On the whole, therefore, we find ourselves rich in property but rather short of income at the present moment. I think it would be difficult to find anywhere the comfort and service afforded its members by the Institute for the dues it exacts, but were it not for our magnificent endowment, we could not exist.

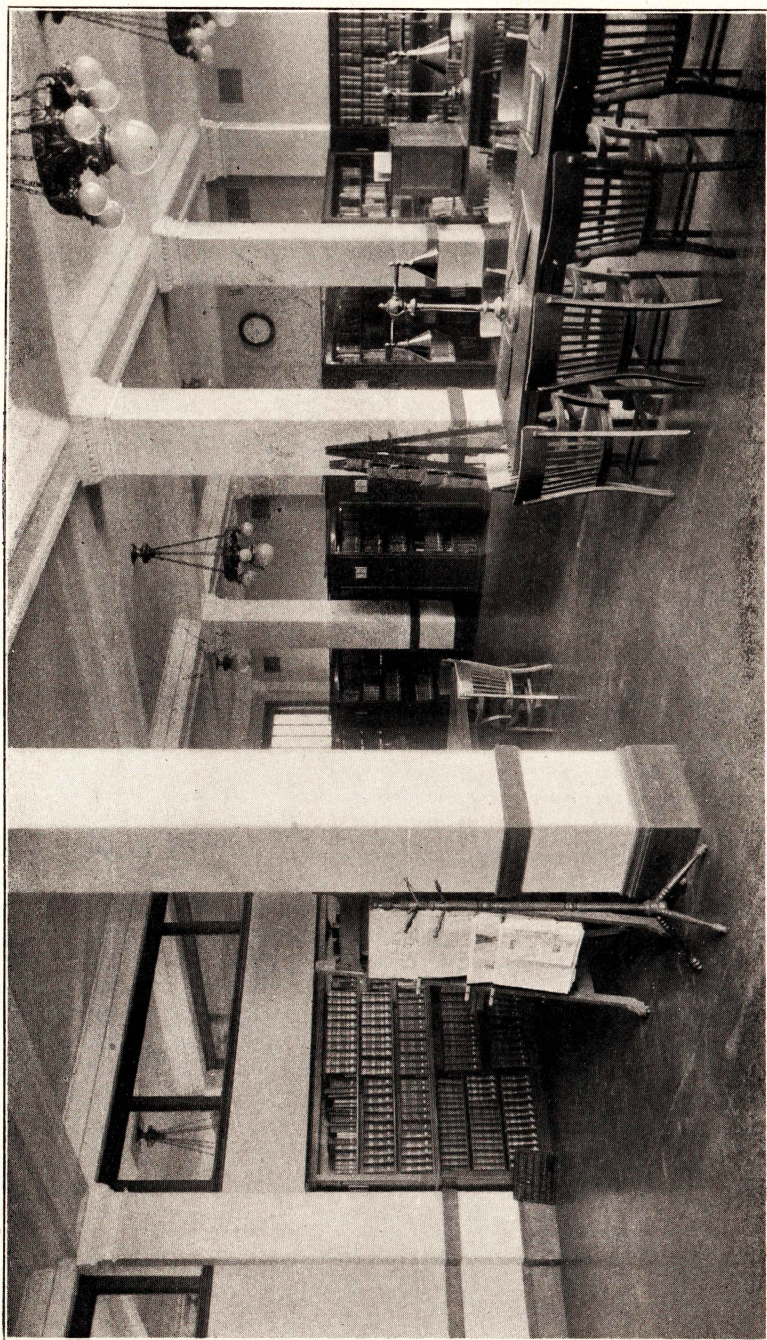
Since moving, our membership has shown a steady increase and today numbers 2,385 paying members; 651 life and honorary members; total, 3,036, an increase of 674 since my last annual report. We ought to have at least 5,000 members, and it will be the endeavor of your Trustees to raise the membership to that point.

We need and must have more books of all kinds and more periodicals, but I want to assure you that we will proceed carefully so that our existence may not be endangered.

Our dreams of public usefulness have not been forgotten, but simply laid aside during this period of stress and storm from which we have not yet emerged. I look forward to the time when the Mechanics' Institute will occupy this entire building from cellar to garret, gathering under its roof all educational societies with their libraries and make it one of the educational centers of this city. This does not mean a university or a college or a school, but rather an institution where men and women may come after they have finished their schooling and proceed with the acquisition of knowledge in their chosen vocation; where all that is new and progressive in industry, commerce, science and literature may be spread before them; so that he who seeks may find.

In conclusion, I wish to say a word for our indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Joseph M. Cumming, who has spared neither time nor trouble in his care for the affairs of the Mechanics' Institute, and for our Librarian, Mr. Francis B. Graves, and his staff, who always have and still continue to use their best endeavors to build up the library and bring its best use to our members.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG, *President*.



Mechanics'-Mercantile Library—Reference Room, Third Floor Mechanics' Institute Building.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 1911.

Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1911:

March 1, 1910. Cash on deposit in various banks.....\$ 45,946.86

RECEIPTS.

Mechanics' Institute Building, rents and sundry receipts from June 1, 1910, to March 1, 1911 (including \$7,500 for rent of portion occupied by Institute for seven and one-half months)	\$ 20,250.47
Pavilion Block, rent.....	1,000.00
San Bruno Avenue Lots, rent.....	360.00
San Bruno Avenue Lots, tax repaid by tenant...	24.00
Interest	1,413.68
German Savings and Loan Society—for New Building Payments	125,968.64

Library and General Administration:

Dues	\$10,997.00	
Entrance Fees	822.00	
Life Memberships.....	250.00	
Lost Books Paid For.....	46.25	
Fines and Extra Books.....	813.25	
Lectures	87.25	
Return Insurance Premiums....	254.68	
Sundry Receipts	53.18	\$ 13,323.61
		162,340.40
		<hr/>
		\$208,287.26

EXPENDITURES.

Mechanics' Institute Building—payments for construction, equipment, etc.....\$125,968.64

Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses, etc., from June 1, 1910, to March 1, 1911—

Pay Roll	\$4,050.70
Interest	5,845.17
Taxes	1,829.00
Insurance	913.87
Steam Heat	700.00
Electric Current	756.10
Water	135.48
Window Cleaning	230.00
Building Changes (repaid by tenants)	257.00
Supplies	516.00
Repairs	7.34
Commissions	145.00
Uniforms	49.80
General Expense	243.65
	<hr/>
	\$ 15,679.11

Library and General Administration
(including operation of Grove
St. Bldg. to July 15, 1910)—

Advertising	\$ 18.80
Books, Binding and Periodicals...	5,812.67
Fuel	56.35
Furniture	1,212.72
General Expense	832.51
Insurance	265.00
Legal Expense	265.00
Moving to New Building.....	980.30
Lectures	363.75
Light	207.75
Printing, Stationery and Postage.	1,595.27
Salaries	9,514.15
Water	36.98
Rent of Rooms in Post St. Bldg., from July 15, 1910, to March 1, 1911	7,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 28,661.25

Taxes—One-half year's taxes to July 1, 1910,
on Post St. building and one year's taxes
on all other real estate and on personal
property

5,318.65

\$175,627.65

1911 March 1, Cash on hand in various banks.....\$ 32,659.61

The amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books, Binding and Periodicals has been.....\$ 50,547.06

The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the new building on Post St., has been.....\$294,331.69

All of which has been borrowed from the German Savings and Loan Society on mortgage covering Post St. property and part of Pavilion Block.

Insurance is carried as follows:

Books	\$ 17,000.00
Furniture	4,000.00
Post St. Building (besides accident and plate glass insurance)	175,000.00

The Real Estate owned is as follows:

Pavilion Block, bounded by Larkin, Grove, Polk and Hayes Streets (unimproved except portion covered by building occupied by Institute up to time of moving to Post Street. This building is vacant).

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

Lots 339 and 340 Precita Valley Lands (leased to Krieg Tanning Co. for \$30.00 a month).

Seven lots in People's Homestead Tract A (unimproved).

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. CUMMING,

Secretary Mechanics' Institute.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 1911.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifty-sixth annual report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1911.

A year ago the library was housed in its temporary building on the southwest corner of Polk and Grove streets. The room was commodious and served its purpose very well; no one can regret that we had such a building to go to so soon after the fire of 1906, in spite of its inconvenient location.

On June 30, 1910, the old quarters were closed and the removal of books to the present building was commenced on July 1st.

The actual time in moving the books, furniture and shelving was six days. As soon as the temporary wooden shelving was installed on the third floor the books were put in place, and on July 15th the Library was opened for business. It was seen at once that there would be a large increase in membership on account of our new quarters and better accommodations.

Since the Library opened in July we have added over 600 to our membership.

In December the erection of the metal shelving was commenced and the work was completed by the end of February.

On February 11th the Library closed for the removal of the books to the permanent room on the second floor, and on February 16th the Library was reopened.

All of the circulating books, with the exception of those in the technical and fine arts divisions, which are to remain on the third floor, have been placed in the new room and occupy the lower tier of the book shelves.

The U. S. and State governmental reports have been placed in the second tier of the book shelves, as well as the bound and unbound periodicals.

The reference books, Patent Office reports, technical books and works on the Fine Arts, as well as the current periodicals and newspapers, have been placed on the third floor, in charge of the Reference Librarian.

It will be shown that there has been a material advance during the past year in membership, books, circulation and receipts.

The Library is now housed in a modern building, with up-to-date equipment, there is shelving for nearly twice the number of volumes we now have and room for more shelving when required.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year five life members and 822 subscribing members have joined the Library, and 153 have withdrawn.

The present membership is as follows:

Honorary Members	10
Life Members	641
Subscribing Members	2,385
Total.....	3,036

BOOKS.

The accession of books for the year is as follows:

By Purchase	2,309
Gift	569
Binding	550
Exchange	21
Total.....	3,449

ACCESSIONS BY CLASSES.

General Works	204
Philosophy	36
Religion	24
Social Science	252
Science	212
Useful Arts	572
Fine Arts	128
Literature	295
Travel	147
Biography	141
History	111
Fiction	1,327

Total..... 3,449

The total number of volumes in the library is 35,392.

CIRCULATION.

There were issued for home use 88,753 volumes, an average of 7,379 volumes per month.

The following table gives the statistics of circulation by classes:

General Works	14
Philosophy	822
Religion	363
Sociology	1,166
Science	792
Useful Arts	2,375
Fine Arts	1,060
Music	514

Literature	2,994	
German	1,746	
French	960	
Travel	2,173	
Biography	2,117	
History	1,733	
Fiction	66,895	
Children's Books.....	916	
Periodicals	2,113	
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	88,753	
Fiction and Juvenile.....	67,811 vols.	76.4 per cent
Non-fiction	20,942 vols.	23.6 per cent
	<hr/>	
	88,753	100

RECEIPTS.

The receipts of this department for the year have been as follows:

Entrance Fees	\$ 822.00
Life Memberships	250.00
Dues	10,997.00
Books and Magazines paid for.....	46.25
Fines	282.85
Extra Books	530.40
Lecture Tickets	11.50
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Total.....	\$12,940.00

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. GRAVES,

Librarian.



Mechanics' Institute Chess Room, Third Floor, Mechanics' Institute Building.

GIFTS.

Books donated to the Library, March 1910-February, 1911.

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Abbott, Francis R.....	1
Acheson Oildag Co. (N. Y.).....	1
Alexander, Dr. Paul C.....	22
American Bankers Ass'n.....	1
American Institute of Architects.....	1
Anonymous.....	1
Atherton, Gertrude.....	1
Bassett, C. F.....	1
Bennett, Sanford.....	1
Bradbury, A. W.....	1
Buffington, Mrs. W. H.....	4
Bush, David.....	1
California—Building & Loan Commissioners..	1
California—Insurance Commissioner.....	1
California—Secretary of State.....	1
California Bankers Ass'n.....	1
Carnegie Steel Co.....	1
Cebrian, J. C.....	16
Chivers, Herbert C.....	1
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.....	1
Croudace, Lenore.....	1
Davis, Horace.....	5
Debar, Joseph (Cincinnati).....	1
Dolge, Wm.....	2
Dreyfuss, Mrs. Leah.....	36
Dryden, Jno. F.....	1
Dunlop, R.....	1
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin (London).....	1
Dykes, Hugh F.....	1
Gillette, King C.....	1
Graves, Mrs. F. B.....	2
Gutzkow F.....	4
Harvard University Library.....	1
Hawley, Fred'k B.....	1
Hayes, E. A.....	15
Hewitt, E. G.....	1
Hodghead, Beverly L.....	1
Hooker, Mrs. R. G.....	12
Hunn, F. B.....	1
Keil, George.....	3
Langford, Augustine.....	1
Lasker, E.....	1
Leland Stanford Junior University.....	1
McClurg, A. C. & Co.....	1
Massachusetts—Board of Education.....	1
Master Car Builders' Ass'n.....	1

GIFTS.—(Continued.)

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Metropolitan Water & Sewerage Board.....	1
Moffat, R. Burnham.....	1
Morrow, Hon. W. W.....	1
National Electric Light Ass'n.....	5
New York—State Board of Charities.....	4
New Zealand—Registrar-General.....	3
Perkins, Hon. Geo. C.....	2
Pillsbury, A. J.....	2
Plank, L.....	2
Pond, Miss.....	13
Richards, John.....	10
Rogers, R. R.....	4
Root, Chas. T.....	1
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors.....	1
Saulmann, J. C.....	1
Slocum, C. E.....	1
Stock, E. C.....	1
Sully, J. O.....	6
Technical Society of the Pacific.....	13
Thompson, Slason.....	1
U. S.—Bureau American Ethnology.....	1
U. S.—Civil Service Commission.....	11
U. S.—Coast and Geodetic Survey.....	2
U. S.—Bureau of Education.....	1
U. S.—Geological Survey.....	2
U. S.—Interstate Commerce Commission.....	1
U. S.—National Museum.....	1
U. S.—Smithsonian Institution.....	1
U. S.—Supt. of Documents.....	193
U. S.—Treasury Department.....	3
U. S.—War Department.....	1
Vair, Roger.....	7
Van Denburgh, Mrs. E. D.....	1
Vincent, Geo. J.....	1
Webster, Geo. S. (Philadelphia).....	1
Western Railway Club.....	1
Wexel, J.....	1
Whelan, Dr. W. A.....	110
Wood, J. H.....	2

Associations and individuals who have made donations other than bound volumes.

Donors.	
Academy of National Sciences of Philadelphia	1 pamphlet
Altschul, Richard.....	9 pamphlets
American Ass'n for International Conciliation...	5 serials
American Railway Bridge & Bldg. Ass'n.....	1 pamphlet
Amherst College.....	1 pamphlet
Arthur D. Little, Inc.....	1 pamphlet
Asiatic Exclusion League.....	1 serial
Boston Port & Seamen's Aid Society.....	1 pamphlet

Donors.

Boyle, T. F.	1 pamphlet
California—Insurance Commission	1 pamphlet
California—State Board of Health.....	1 serial
California—State Forester	1 serial
California—State Library	34 pamphlets
California—State Treasurer	1 volume
California Academy of Sciences.....	1 serial
California Development Board	1 pamphlet
California Society Sons American Revolution....	1 pamphlet
Canada—Geological Survey	9 pamphlets
Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.....	3 serials
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission	1 pamphlet
Carnegie Institute of Washington.....	4 pamphlets
Carnegie Steel Co.....	9 pamphlets
Coast Banker (periodical subscription)	
Columbia University, N. Y.....	1 serial
Commonwealth Club of California.....	4 serials
Davidson, Prof. George	2 pamphlets
Delany, Mrs. Dora (unbound periodicals)	
DuBois, C. G. (N. Y.).....	11 pamphlets
Fairmount Park Art Association	1 pamphlet
Ford, Tirey L.....	1 pamphlet
General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen.....	1 pamphlet
Geographical Society of the Pacific.....	2 serials
Hayes, E. A.....	17 serials
Herrin, Wm. F.....	1 pamphlet
Horstmann, Wm. H.....	1 pamphlet
Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arb.	1 pamphlet
Leland Stanford Junior University.....	3 pamphlets
Lewis Institute (Chicago)	1 pamphlet
Lummis, C. F.....	6 pamphlets
Merchants' Association of San Francisco.....	1 pamphlet
Minneapolis—Park Commissioners.....	1 pamphlet
National Education Association	1 pamphlet
Neal, Robert W.	1 newspaper
Oakland—Park Commissioners	1 pamphlet
Ohio—Geological Survey	1 pamphlet
Ohio University (Athens, O.).....	1 pamphlet
Oklahoma (City) Chamber of Commerce.....	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Museum	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Prison Society.....	1 pamphlet
Philadelphia City Institute.....	1 pamphlet
Plank, L.	1 pamphlet
St. Louis, Republic	1 pamphlet
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors.....	3 pamphlets
San Francisco—City and County Auditor.....	1 pamphlet
San Francisco—City Attorney.....	1 pamphlet
Standard Oil Company.....	4 pamphlets
U. S.—Interstate Commerce.....	7 serials
U. S.—Patent Office.....	1 pamphlet
U. S.—Smithsonian Institution.....	52 serials
	7 serials

Donors.

U. S.—Supt. of Documents.....	25 pamphlets
	109 serials
University of California.....	1 serial
University of Chicago.....	11 pamphlets
Van Denburgh, Mrs. E. D.....	1 pamphlet
Yale University	2 pamphlets

LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS OR BULLETINS.

Birmingham Free Library (England)	
Brooklyn Public Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Buffalo Public Library	Buffalo, N. Y.
Carnegie Free Library	Alleghany, Pa.
Carnegie Public Library	Bradford, Pa.
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	
Chicago Public Library	Chicago, Ill.
Cincinnati Public Library	Cincinnati, O.
City Library Ass'n of Springfield	Springfield, Mass.
Cleveland Public Library	Cleveland, O.
Dayton Public Library	Dayton, O.
Detroit Public Library	Detroit, Mich.
Free Library of Philadelphia	Philadelphia.
Grand Rapids Public Library	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Harvard University Library	Cambridge, Mass.
Haverhill Public Library	Haverhill, Mass.
Helena Public Library	Helena, Mont.
John Crerar Library	Chicago.
Library Company of Philadelphia	Philadelphia.
Los Angeles Public Library	Los Angeles.
Louisville Free Public Library	Louisville, Ky.
Mercantile Library of New York	New York.
New South Wales Public Library	
New York Public Library	New York.
Newton Free Library	Newton, Mass.
Omaha Public Library	Omaha.
Pasadena Public Library	Pasadena, Cal.
Peabody Institute	Baltimore, Md.
Pratt Institute Free Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Providence Athenæum	Providence, R. I.
Providence Public Library	Providence, R. I.
Rosenberg Library	Galveston, Tex.
St. Louis Public Library	St. Louis, Mo.
St. Paul Public Library	St. Paul, Minn.
Salem Public Library	Salem, Mass.
San Francisco Public Library	
Sedalia Public Library	Sedalia, Mo.
Toledo Public Library	Toledo, O.
Toronto Public Library	Toronto, Canada.
Victoria, (Australia) Public Library	
Worcester Free Public Library	Worcester, Mass.

